



STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

TO: Superintendents

CC: State Board of Education; Vermont Superintendents Association; Vermont Principals' Association; Vermont School Boards Association; Vermont NEA; School Improvement Coordinators

FROM: Richard H. Cate, Commissioner

DATE: August 12, 2004

SUBJECT: School Nurses, Associate School Nurses and Employment of LPNs in Schools

As you may know, the State Board of Education approved the final school nurse and associate school nurse endorsement competencies at its June 9, 2004 meeting.

School Nurse (3-65)

Successful applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- An earned baccalaureate or master's degree from a nursing program accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- A valid license as a registered nurse (RN) in the state of Vermont
- Current certificates in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid
- Four years of clinical nursing experience beyond nursing education
- Completion of an educational orientation program provided through the Department of Education and based on the requirements for delivery of health services as defined in the *Vermont School Quality Standards* and the Vermont manual *Standards of Practice: School Health Services*

New Associate School Nurse (3-65A)

Successful applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- An earned Associate's Degree/Diploma from a nursing program accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN)
- A valid license as a registered nurse (RN) in the state of Vermont
- Current certificates in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid
- Four years of clinical nursing experience that must include community health and pediatric nursing

- Completion of an approved educational orientation program provided through the Department of Education and based on the requirements for delivery of health services as defined in the *Vermont School Quality Standards* and the Vermont manual *Standards of Practice: School Health Services*

Employment of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)

I know that some districts have employed LPNs under previously issued waivers from School Quality Health Services Standards (SQHSS). The adoption of the new rules supercedes such waivers. The 2004-2005 school year is the last year LPNs will be permitted to serve in any health-related capacity in a school. No SQHSS waivers or any type of license (including temporary licenses) will be issued to LPNs after the 2004-2005 school.

The 2004-2005 school year will be a transitional year. A special, one-year provision is being made only for those LPNs who were employed in the 2003-2004 school year under SQHSS waivers and who anticipated employment in the 2004-2005 school year.

Under Rules 5360-5364, the licensing office will accept and approve emergency license requests for the 2004-2005 school year for LPNs as associate school nurses provided all requirements for the emergency license are met. These requirements include:

- Evidence that all reasonable efforts have been made to find appropriately licensed and/or endorsed applicants. Evidence should be in the form of a listing of dates and samples of advertisements.
- Evidence that all licensed or endorsed applicants did not possess the qualities necessary for the specific assignment. Evidence should be in the form of a listing of all applications, their qualifications, and reasons why these individuals were not suitable candidates.
- A statement that direct, on-site supervision will be provided by a licensed school nurse or associate school nurse who is employed by the district.
- A statement describing the process by which the LPN will be mentored and supervised during the 2004-2005 school year.

These emergency licenses are not renewable and extensions will not be considered in the future.

Applications for emergency licenses can be obtained by requesting forms from gailkilkelly@education.state.vt.us. Emergency licenses are conditionally approved within 48 hours of the request.